



# Greater Yellowstone Coalition

America's Voice for a Greater Yellowstone | LANDS • WATERS • WILDLIFE

EXHIBIT # 10  
DATE 01/20/2015  
HB 145

January 20, 2015

Dear Chairman Redfield and members of the House Agriculture Committee,

This morning your committee will consider H.B. 145, which would provide funding to the Livestock Loss Mitigation Board, provide for nonlethal deterrents to conflicts, and fund livestock loss compensation. We support the bill as written and thank Representative Mike Cuffe for introducing this important legislation for Montana's wildlife.

1. Grizzly bears are a permanent part of the Montana landscape. Adequately funding programs to reduce conflicts proactively with non-lethal deterrents and providing compensation to producers should depredations occur, helps build and maintain support for grizzly bears in Montana.
2. Sharing this landscape with native large carnivores is part of what makes living in Montana special and we pride ourselves on being able to live with our wildlife. These programs benefit all Montanans, not just livestock producers, because they help maintain healthy populations of carnivores on the landscape and decrease the need for costly lethal measures.
3. This bill ensures funding for proactive preventive measures for grizzly bear management that could include electric fencing, carcass removal, bear patrollers and range rider programs in partnership with landowners, ranchers, and agencies. If properly funded, these tools are an investment that could reduce conflicts with grizzly bears into the future and minimize the need for livestock loss compensation.
4. There are many examples of conflict reduction with livestock producers that have proven successful in Greater Yellowstone and beyond. One of the best examples is the Blackfoot Valley of Montana where the Blackfoot Challenge has facilitated a partnership with livestock producers to reduce carnivore conflicts on private lands by 96% in the past 15 years.

We ask for your support of HB 145 and Montana's Livestock Loss Mitigation Board. This bill will benefit both wildlife and livestock producers by investing in tools that are proven to reduce conflicts here in Montana.

Sincerely,

Caroline Byrd  
Executive Director, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

